

THE HEADLIGHT.
—BY THE—
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EDMUND G. ROSS, Editor.
SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1903.

Headquarters Democratic Central Committee of New Mexico:
Santa Fe, N. M., July 15th, 1903.
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Democratic Territorial Central Committee will be held at Santa Fe, N. M., on Monday, August 4th, 1903.
All members are earnestly requested to be present, as business of importance will be transacted.
C. H. GILBERT, Secretary.
F. L. MARTINEZ, Secretary.

THE PERKINS SCHOOL BILL.

We publish herewith a number of extracts from the press of New Mexico on the Perkins School Bill. The expression is generally of cordial endorsement, and the bill is regarded as one of such vital consequence to the future welfare of New Mexico as to make it a precedent condition to admission to statehood.

The salient features of the bill are mainly as follows:

It creates a Territorial Board of Education, composed of the Governor, a superintendent of public instruction, and the Territorial auditor—the superintendent of Public Instruction to be appointed by the Governor.

The District School directors are authorized to levy a district tax for the support of the district schools, not to exceed ten mills on the dollar for each year.

School districts may vote bonds for building school houses, to the extent of four per cent. of the taxable property of the district.

The general school fund, outside of these sources, shall consist of:

First. The proceeds of all sales of Intestate estates which reach to the Territory.

Second. All forfeitures or recoveries on bonds of school, county, precinct, or Territorial officers.

Third. The proceeds of all fines collected for violations of the penal law.

Fourth. The proceeds of the sales of land goods or strays.

Fifth. All moneys arising from licenses imposed upon wholesale and retail liquor dealers, distillers, brewers, wine-presses, gambling tables, or games of chance which now pay license.

Six. A tax of one dollar, as now provided by law, shall be levied upon all able-bodied male persons over the age of twenty-one years, for school purposes.

These provisions, it will be seen, are vastly in contrast with those of the proposed constitution. There is perfect freedom on the part of the people of the school districts to vote upon themselves any amount of taxation or indebtedness for school purposes that in their judgment they may deem necessary, up to a prescribed and reasonable limit. This privilege is absolutely prohibited by the proposed constitution.

Under this bill there is no disfranchisement of voters on account of not being property holders. The disfranchisement of all such by the proposed constitution is the most vicious proposition ever incorporated upon a public school system.

This bill relieves us of that and establishes a thoroughly American system, which cannot fail to prove of very great value to the cause of education here, and thus to all the interests of the Territory, political, industrial and commercial.

Moreover, the passage of this bill will cost the Government nothing—the people of New Mexico are not put in the attitude of paupers asking the Government to do for them what they are abundantly and proudly able to do for themselves, and would long ago have willingly done if they had been permitted by the land grant rings and partisan bosses whose ambition, so far as the people are concerned, has been and is to keep them in a condition of penury, economic as well as political.

Of course the bill will meet with criticism. No one will contend that it is perfect, nor can any one expect a perfect measure. But it will answer the purpose for which it is designed, the beginning of a progressive, coherent American public school system, and that is enough.

The following are extracts from the Territorial press up to date:

[Black Range—Rep.]
New Mexico needs public schools. Let every man sign a petition urging the passage of the Perkins school bill.

[Black Range—Rep.]
Let the good work go on, and get Congress to perform the sacred duty which its legislative branch refused to do, and which would remain undone for years were New Mexico a state.

[Santa Fe News—Dem.]
It seems probable that the Perkins school bill, providing an adequate and efficient public school system, for New Mexico, will be passed by Congress.

This will confer more benefit upon the territory than a ton of Republican rump constitutions.

[Democrat Advertiser—Dem.]
When any aggregation of men applying for entrance as a state into the great nation on the earth refuse to tax themselves for the maintenance of public schools, it is perfectly proper that the parent government take the matter in hand and educate them up to the required standard.

[San Juan Co. Index—Rep.]
On the 9th Inst. Representative Perkins of Kansas introduced into the house a bill establishing public schools in New Mexico, and creating the office of superintendent of public instruction for the territory. It is some such measure as this that friends of education have vainly asked from successive New Mexico legislatures. Now that Congress has taken up the subject all the friends of education in the territory should rally in support of the congressional measure. There is no friend to education in New Mexico but has an acquaintance with at least one congressman or senator. However slight the acquaintance it is sufficient to justify a letter, and congressmen are not deterred by personal communications from New Mexico requesting them to support the Perkins bill.

[Albuquerque Photo—Rep.]
Representative Perkins, of Kansas, came to the rescue of the people of New Mexico on the 9th of July, by introducing a bill in Congress establishing free schools in New Mexico. This bill which has been introduced upon in Washington and throughout the country is the same as the one introduced in the lower house of the New Mexico legislature in the winter of 1898—9 by Hon. W. D. Kistler of Las Vegas. * * * There are three things that Congress must do before New Mexico can be allowed to enter the Union. First, strike out the clause in the New Mexico constitution providing for the appointment of our judges by the governor. Second, give the territory a just and equitable school law, such as honors the statutes of the leading states in the Union. Third, clean up the land grants and place them under the same rate of taxation as the individual property of the territory. These are important questions for those who live in New Mexico, and in many instances, a positive bar to people seeking investments in this country. Under statehood they will be a plague and therefore should be permanently settled before New Mexico is admitted.

It is safe to say that the entire Democratic and one half or more of the Republican newspapers of the Territory endorse this bill. With such an array of the public press asking its passage, there is little room to doubt that the people of New Mexico are practically unanimous in desiring its passage. Especially as it will cost the Government nothing, there is no good reason why it should not be given us.

WHAT THE PERKINS BILL MEANS.

The criticism is made of the Perkins School Bill that it will defeat the statehood movement, and that that is the reason why the opponents of that movement favor the bill.

Those who make this criticism forget that the movement for a Congressional school law was started long before the Constitutional convention was held, on the ground that statehood without a good public school system would be utterly valueless—that it was a necessary precedent condition to admission into the Union.

If the passage of the bill now defeats the pending statehood movement, so much the better, for it will assure a vastly more satisfactory condition of statehood when it does come, in the not distant future, for then statehood will be based upon intelligence and progress, not upon penury to the land grant claimants, as would be the case if admitted now.

Intelligent statehood, and the end of land grant ring rule, is what the Perkins School Bill means, and it will accomplish that end. If the present state movement cannot stand the competition, let it go.

The House substitute for the Senate original package bill passed the House on Tuesday. The bill, as adopted, in effect declares that a citizen or resident of any state can import goods from one state or foreign country for his own use, but that when he attempts to make commerce of it, or, in other words, offer it for sale, it shall be subject to the police regulation of a state.

Gen. Miles, to whom New Mexico is indebted for the final cessation of Indian hostilities within her borders, was given a splendid reception in Albuquerque the other day. He is worthy of it.

The national silver committee is preparing to open a vigorous campaign canvass for the control of the next House of Representatives in the interest of free coinage of silver. It has purchased thousands of free coinage speeches which it is sending into every Western congressional district. Its president, Gen. Warner, has issued a call for the committee to meet in Washington on September 1st, at which time he will present a printed report, showing the work of the committee, the progress of legislation in Congress, and the votes of every congressman upon the silver bill and its various amendments.

A DISTINCTION WITH A DIFFERENCE.

The plea of the necessity of Federal intervention in the elections of the South, upon which the pending Lodge-Davenport Federal election bill is based, is the suppression of Republican votes in that section.

On this point the Washington National Democrat publishes some interesting and very instructive figures, showing that there are proportionately more votes "suppressed" in the north than in the South, and the figures are taken from the official returns of the election of 1888.

In that year Florida cast 80 per cent of her possible vote, and Connecticut 87 per cent. West Virginia cast 88 per cent, and Massachusetts, Mr. Lodge's state, 70 per cent. Virginia cast 75 per cent, and New Hampshire 73 per cent. North Carolina cast 84 per cent, and New York 80 per cent, Texas 75 per cent, and Maine, Reed's state, 61 per cent; and so on through almost the entire list of states, north and south.

And these figures firmly convince Bully Reed and Aristocrat Lodge that there is fearful suppression of votes in the South, and that it is absolutely essential, in order to make the people forget for the moment the robberies inflicted upon them by the Republican tariff, and keep the Democrats from electing the next Congress and the next President, that future elections in the south shall be held under the immediate control of Republican Federal judges, supervisors, returning boards, marshals, and bayonets, for all of which their bill makes detailed and ample provision.

PROBABLE DEFEAT OF THE FORCE BILL.

Recent and continuing developments indicate that the Federal election bill which was recently forced through the House in such unseemly haste by the bulldozing tactics of Speaker Reed, will probably be defeated in the Senate.

As a rule the commercial interests of the north and east, whose representatives foresee unfortunate commercial and industrial complications in the operations of that bill should it become a law, are making themselves heard in vigorous protest against it, and their influence is being felt.

It is said that the list of Republican senators opposed to the bill up to the present time is 10 in number, embracing such gentlemen of prominence as Mr. Edmunds of Vermont, Mr. Paddock of Nebraska, Messrs. Teller and Wolcott of Colorado, Messrs. Washburn and Davis of Minnesota, Messrs. Jones and Stewart of Nevada, Mr. Hale of Maine and Mr. Plumb of Kansas. This is enough to defeat it. If they vote with the Democrats against it. Some of them have recently been among their constituents, and express surprise at the general hostile feeling that they found to exist towards the measure. It is to be sincerely hoped that this good augury of escape from a great danger to republican institutions may prove correct.

THE ALASKA SEAL FISHERIES DISPUTE.

Some interesting correspondence has been going on between the United States and the British State Department during the past two weeks over the Behring Sea seal fisheries. England insists upon her right to take seals there, as the Behring is an open sea, and therefore public to all the world, subject only to the three leagues from land limit.

Mr. Blaine insists on the contrary, that that claim was never made so long as Alaska remained the property of Russia—that the United States succeeded to all the rights of Russia in the premises, and is therefore indisputably owner of the Alaska seas and all they contain.

The persistence of the British Government has reached an intimation of possible hostile methods in the assertion of her claimed right, but it is altogether likely that the matter will be amicably settled in due time.

Eugene Schuyler, for many years conspicuous in the diplomatic service, is dead at Cairo, Egypt, where he has been American Consul for some years.

Three candidates for the Presidency died last week—P. D. Wiginton, the American party candidate at the last presidential election, General Clinton B. Fiske, the prohibition candidate at the same election, and General John C. Fremont, the first candidate of the Republican party.

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Statehood could greatly assist in carrying through the large enterprises for the benefit of New Mexico. Capital is said about investing in a territory. [San Marcial Reporter.]

Capital would be still more timid about investing in a state controlled by land grant rings who have robbed eastern investors of vast sums of money by selling them fictitious grants, and who now refuse to allow the people to tax themselves for the support of public schools.

There will never be a decent Republican party in the South until the Republican comes to an end; until the Republican party in and out of Congress treats the South as it treats the East and West; until, in short, it refuses longer to use the South as a political truck patch of rank campaign vegetation, surrounded by a wall of sectional prejudices and surmounted by the bloody shirt, as at once a scarecrow and an ensign. The moment, however, that external pressure is withdrawn from the South, the whites will divide by, and with them the blacks, each set of whites taking care of his or her set of blacks, and seeing that their votes are duly cast and fairly counted. Then, and by no other route, or process, will the negro come by his rights, and all this bulimic about abstract constitutional law, which nobody denies, is of a piece with the same sort of thing, which, in 1860, claimed that slavery was a constitutional right and could go wherever it pleased, and that all efforts to limit, or abridge it, were treasonable. [Courier Journal.]

ANOTHER FREE COINAGE BILL.

Senator Morgan on Thursday introduced a bill for a limit of value, and provided for the free coinage of silver; referred to the committee on finance. It recites that the market value of silver bullion rapidly approaching the value of gold on the standard of relation fixed by law of the United States—that there is no provision of law for the coinage of standard silver dollars or the purchase of silver bullion by the government when the value of silver bullion exceeds one dollar for 37 1/2 grains pure silver. It therefore provides that the unit of value in the United States shall be a dollar of 412 1/2 grains of standard silver or 25 8-10 grains of gold. That those coins shall be legal tender for all debts, public and private, that any owner of silver or gold bullion may deposit at any mint, to be coined into dollars or bars for his benefit without charge.

Mr. Morgan called the special attention of the finance committee to the bill, which he said was the same as had already received a majority of 17 in the Senate. He had introduced it because he was convinced that in the rapid advance of the price of silver bullion in the markets of the world the time was not far distant, to say the least, when silver and gold bullion would be on a par with each other. When that time did arrive, the law as it now stood would not permit the government to buy silver bullion if there was any show of appreciation in its price beyond the price of gold, and there was no provision of the law for the coinage of any silver except that purchased before silver reached that point. In view of what appeared to be in the air as well as on land and on sea, in regard to the immediate future of the country, he thought it would be well to secure to make provisions so that silver or gold bullion would not be withdrawn from the United States by other interested governments and hoarded up in the great banking institutions.

GOOD FOR PLUMB.

Dr. Ensor, who is one of the few Republican carpet-baggers left in South Carolina politics, was talking to his old friend, Senator Plumb, when he was last in Washington several weeks ago, and complaining, as usual, that he could not get elected to Congress from South Carolina because his white neighbors did not like his associating politically with negroes.

"Well," said Plumb, in his blunt, business like way, "what do you stay there for? I wouldn't stay where I wasn't wanted. Why don't you sell out and leave? Come out to Kansas. There's plenty of room out there for you to run for Congress."

"Well," Dr. Ensor said, "I don't want to come away, I have some property there, and I want to stay there; but I would like to come to Congress, and I could, too, if you would pass the Federal election bill."

"Yes," said Plumb, "that's just it. You fellows can't get elected to Congress unless you have an army at your back. Well, now, the day for that sort of thing is past in this country and will never come back again. We tried that masterfully under Grant, and where did we land? Why, within an inch of Tilden. We don't want a Democratic President in 1902, and so we won't try any more experiments on that line."

General Miles has had a conference with the governor of Arizona and commandant of the frontier guard. The conference was very satisfactory to both parties and arrangements were made for mutual support and assistance in case of Indian outbreaks coming from the republic into the other, which it is hoped will rid this region of the few remaining outlaw thoughts to be lurking in the Sierra Azul mountains of Old Mexico. The Mexican officials are well informed as to the situation and are disposed to co-operate zealously with our authorities to the end desired.

THE EL PASO GOLD STRIKE.

[El Paso.]

This strike is situated on the east slope of the Franklin Mountains, about 5 miles by wagon road from El Paso's plaza and 2 1/2 miles from the Post House. Mr. Chris discovered the first gold bearing rock in the vicinity in February 1898, which he located under the old mining law. He relocated under the new order of things on the 28th of June 1899. The formation in the vicinity is lime and porphyry, the vein pitches N. E. at a slight angle and is continuous on the surface for 750 feet with a mean width of 25 feet. The matrix which holds the yellow metal is quartzite. Messrs. Beckhart & Beckelmann, the well known and reliable assayers and mining engineers of this city, sampled the full width of the vein and made some 13 careful assays and the average value of which amounted to \$20.00 gold. The claim is called the Hematite. At a distance of two miles from the claim there is an abundant and unfailing supply of water. We are pleased to learn from Mr. Chris that his location is upon public land which will result in him in time to secure a perfect title to his discovery. He is now negotiating with parties in this city and hopes to soon be in a position to put his property upon a producing and paying basis. We will follow the development of the Hematite with interest and from time to time will report progress as it proceeds.

We secured further information from the lucky discoverer that there is a wide field for the prospector, in his vicinity, that at least one hundred sections lie open to the prospector on the public lands. This information, no doubt, will have the influence of causing that portion of the Franklin range to be prospected in a manner that has never been done previously. Gold is where you find it.

Governor Prince declares, with his right hand, that he is not a candidate for delegate. He solemnly announces that Mariano S. Otero, the Bernallillo sheep king, is his personal choice for the position. The governor is a shrewd observer. He realizes that the Democrats will nominate the winning candidate and is so magnanimous that he would not for the world deprive Otero of the precious privilege of being again defeated. [Santa Fe Sun.]

At a secret convocation of the Republican territorial committee, held in Santa Fe, a few evenings ago, it was decided that the colored vote of this county must be secured. In pursuance of this resolution Capt. T. B. Catron moved that Col. Max Frost be recommended as the proper Republican candidate for the council. The motion was greeted with uproarious applause and would unquestionably have been adopted if Acting Solicitor General Bartlett, ex-officio penitentiary manager, had not interposed the cold objection that it would be better to nominate some colored man who had never been sentenced to the penitentiary. [Sun.]

Enthusiastic Democratic clubs have been organized in both the 3d and 4th precincts. The membership of the two clubs now numbers 400 active Democrats. [Santa Fe Sun.]

We are informed that the statehooders are making statements among certain classes to the effect that as a state New Mexico would have her general expenses paid by the general government and that the citizens of the Territory would be free from taxation. It is like Mariano S. Otero's promise that if he was elected he would pass a law by which every one was to receive a pension. [Santa Fe Sun.]

The Democrats of New Mexico should labor together as one man to carry the next legislature. This is a matter of the very first importance. [Sun.]

An innocent rural organ asks: "Why will honest congressional elections necessarily disturb the industrial tranquility of the South?" The New York World says that honest elections under the direction of those notorious corruptors, Matthew S. Quay and Wm. W. Dudley, would not be honest. Can't you get that into your heads?

Gen. John H. Rice, editor of the Ft. Scott, Kan. Monitor, and well known in connection with railroad projects, said in Washington City the other day: "If the present Congress passes a rigid federal election law, fails to make adequate appropriations for the Mississippi river, upon which the people of the west depend to transport their products; does not modify the McKinley tariff bill in some particulars, and does not pass a free coinage bill or some measure that will largely increase the circulating medium, I say, as a Republican, that the Republican party will be buried so deep that Gabriel's trumpet will never resurrect it. Memphis (Mo.) Dem."

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